

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of August 16, 2004**

1. **Takoma Park Employee Appreciation Day:** Council is reminded that tomorrow, August 20th, is the annual Takoma Park Employee Appreciation Day. City offices will officially close at approximately 10:00am so staff may enjoy a fun and enjoyable lunch aboard the Lady Baltimore, leaving from the Inner Harbor. The main telephone number, 301-891-7100, will be forwarded to the voicemail system at approximately 10:00am. Notice for this event was placed in the August issue of the newsletter. (*Executive Assistant*)
2. **Friends of the Library:** At their monthly Board Meeting on Tuesday, the Friends of the Library voted to approve funding of the 'Useful/DiscoverStation public access computers recently installed in the Library as a two-month demo. Thanks to the Friends, this Unix-based turnkey system of 4 workstations will remain here permanently as a pilot, if we continue to be satisfied with it's functionality and support. (*Library*)
3. **Golf Tournament:** The annual Morrissey golf tournament will be held in Rockville this coming Monday, with all proceeds going to the Library. It's not too late to participate or be a sponsor! Contact the Library for more information. Ellen and Liz Ferry of the Library staff will be attending the reception after the tournament (to be held at Rumors, 1900 M St. NW). (*Library*)
4. **Ritchie Porter:** Approximately 50 enthusiastic adults and children attended Ritchie Porter's one-person interactive performance of "The Odyssey" at the Library on Tuesday evening. The performance was funded by the Washington Redskins through the Friends of the Library. (*Library*)
5. **Circle Time:** Our Children's Services Coordinator, Jillian Hershberger, recently received an e-mail about our popular Tuesday morning 'Circle Time' from Laura Kleinman who has presented our Spanish story-time series for pre-schoolers in the past. She made the following observation about one of the unexpected benefits of this series: "...Although it was my first time there as a parent I know that there are many nannies who have been attending with their charges for many years. Because you do similar kinds of simple songs and stories every week, these nannies, many of whom speak very little English, begin to learn English slowly week after week. What a supportive, non-threatening environment to practice pronunciation and acquire new vocabulary. One Salvadoran nanny who took care of my neighbor's girls and now cares for another family's children was singing along in English with almost every song you sang. Until I saw her do this, I had never seen her speak English before. I am hoping that our new nanny, who is from Guatemala and speaks no English either, will have the same experience when she brings Philip to the library every week. Although I know this is an unintended result of your story time, I think it should be acknowledged. Kudos, Jillian, for creating and sustaining such an important community tradition." (*Library*)

6. **Storm Water Management of Private Property (All Wards):** As a result of heavy rains this summer we are getting a large number of complaints from residents concerning storm water runoff from their neighbor's property. In some cases the runoff could be blamed on modifications to the neighbor's grading. In most cases hard rain and natural runoff are the culprits. Public Works has worked very hard to keep our storm drains clear and free of obstructions. (*Public Works*)

7. **New Police Officers:** Two new officers were sworn in on Monday afternoon, following completion of required state training (compliance academy, firearms, and CPR). They began field training with the COP Team and Team 2. They are Officer Sean McGarvey, formerly with the Richmond Police Department, and Officer Desiree Palmer, formerly with sheriff's departments in West Virginia. (*Police*)

8. **Old Town Residents Association Meeting (OTRA) - Ward 1:** The Chief and officers were scheduled to attend the monthly meeting of OTRA, and expect to discuss robbery and cooperative efforts with other law enforcement agencies the evening of Aug. 19. The meeting will be held at the Presbyterian Church on Tulip Avenue. (Ward 1). (*Police*)

9. **Officers in Meetings:** Capt. Coursey attended the Annual Briefing of the CAO (Bruce Romer) from the Emergency Management Group. It is held every year this time, as one of four quarterly regular meetings of the group. Updates are provided on progress towards review of the County's emergency management plan (1/3 of which is reviewed each year), and plans are made to conduct exercises through the coming year. Work is underway to refine the software to be used in the new Emergency Operations Center which went into service earlier this summer. (*Police*)

10. **USO PSAs:** A film company used several Takoma Park locations as the backdrop for the newest USO public service announcements. Filming took place Thursday morning at Takoma Junction, a nearby home, and at New Hampshire and East-West Highway. (*Police*)

11. **Officers in Training:** Five employees, officers and administrative staff, attended National Crime Information Center (NCIC) training and/or recertification class the morning of Aug. 19. (*Police*)